



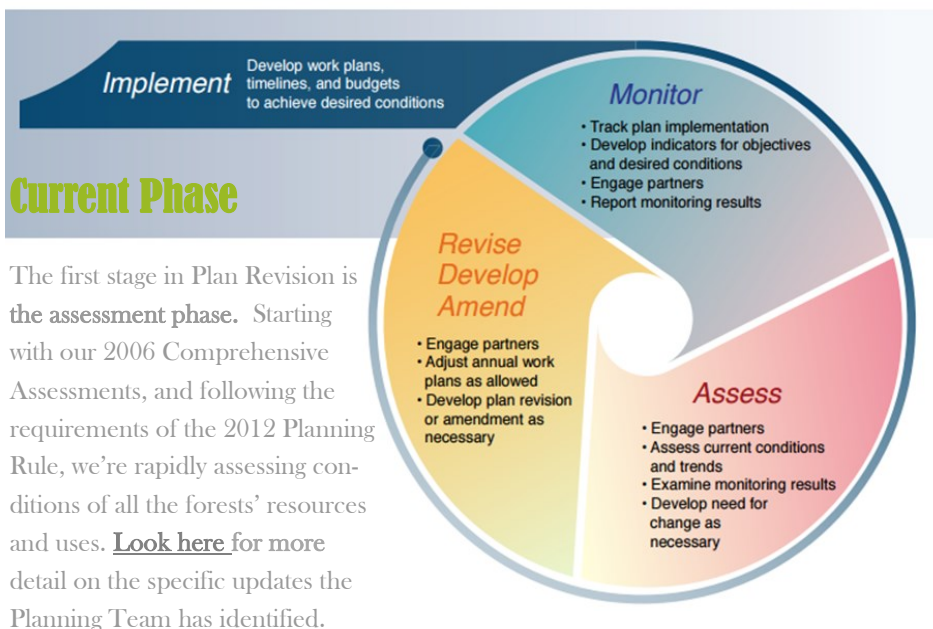
1st. Issue June 2017

GMUG PLAN REVISION NEWSLETTER

It's here. Again. **This June, the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre & Gunnison National Forests (GMUG) is once again starting the process to revise our Forest Plan.** For

What 's New

those who've been involved in public lands issues for some time, you'll remember that the GMUG worked with our local communities for many years on a previous Revision effort. More than one thousand individuals throughout the GMUG's neighboring communities participated between 2000 and 2006 to draft a new Forest Plan. Then, national policy changed, and we had to put it on the backburners until new policies were established. Now we're back in action, and we haven't forgotten the enormous collaborative effort of our local communities and neighbors. **For Plan Revision 2017, our challenge is to take your work as a starting point, and update it with new science, policy, on-the-ground conditions, and input from you. We have three years to develop a new Forest Plan. Join us.**



The first stage in Plan Revision is the **assessment phase**. Starting with our 2006 Comprehensive Assessments, and following the requirements of the 2012 Planning Rule, we're rapidly assessing conditions of all the forests' resources and uses. **[Look here](#)** for more detail on the specific updates the Planning Team has identified.

Why : The need for change

Our current Forest Plan is from 1983, and it's been amended five times. Some material is fully outdated or irrelevant, and other conditions have emerged that we didn't anticipate in 1983, such as the current spruce bark beetle epidemic. We clearly need a new Plan. The assessments will chart a path toward what needs to change in the Forest Plan.

What's Coming Up: Summer Open Houses

This summer, we'll hold public open houses throughout our communities to share some initial assessment work and early ideas about needs for change in the Forest Plan. We want to hear from you:

What changes have you noticed on the forests?

What issues should a new Forest Plan address? How and why?

What is working with current management? What isn't?

This fall, we'll publish our draft assessments for more public comment.

Spotlight: What We Heard From YOU

In preparation for forest plan revision, the GMUG asked the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute (CFRI) to conduct a rapid stakeholder assessment specific to a new Forest Plan Revision process. In late 2015, CFRI interviewed 45 individuals representing a broad range of interests in order to:

- Gain the public's perspective on past planning revision efforts and opinions about updating older assessment material
- Discuss priority issues and public values pertaining to the National Forests
- Garner suggestions to guide the upcoming planning processes in terms of outreach and public meetings.

What we learned in the [Stakeholder Assessment](#) informed the GMUG's [Public Participation Strategy](#) for Revision. These documents are located on our website at fs.usda.gov/goto/ForestPlan.

How Will the GMUG Communicate With You?

The GMUG will:

- Maintain a website dedicated to Forest Plan Revision so you can easily find out the status of the planning process and details related to times, dates, and locations of **public meetings**. See fs.usda.gov/goto/ForestPlan.
- Send quarterly e-newsletters and other information via email to a mailing list.
Publish notices regarding the planning process in the primary local newspapers, online, and sometimes in the Federal Register.
- Host public open houses to start the assessment process this summer. Future meetings will be targeted toward issues that the public is most interested in.
- For those who prefer to review paper copies of reports, maps, or draft materials, the Forest Service will provide key materials at our District Ranger

Get Involved !

Check out our website: fs.usda.gov/goto/ForestPlan

Sign up for our e-newsletters so you can hear the latest news. [Go Here](#) to subscribe.

Have a comment? Tell us what you think. What have you noticed about the Forests? [Go here](#) to submit.

Questions? Email gmugforestplan@fs.fed.us

Follow us on



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.